

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-49 (Cancelled).

50. (Currently Amended) A process for treating a disease in a mammalian subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a mammalian metabolite so as to modulate or change at least one component in the immune system of said subject, wherein the mammalian metabolite is a glycolipid, and wherein the disease includes a defect in an immune response as part of the pathogenesis of the disease.

51. (Original) The process of claim 50, wherein said immune system component comprises cellular, humoral or cytokine elements.

52. (Original) The process of claim 50, wherein said modulation or change is specific or non-specific.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 50, ~~54~~, wherein said glycolipid comprises a monosaccharide ceramide.

56. (Original) The process of claim 55, wherein said monosaccharide ceramide comprises a glucosyl ceramide and galatosyl ceramide.

57. (Original) The process of claim 50, wherein said administering step is carried out by means comprising intravenous means, intramuscular means, subcutaneous means,

intra-peritoneal means or oral means.

58. (Original) The process of claim 50, wherein said disease comprises cancer, an infection or immune dysfunction.

59. (Original) The process of claim 58, wherein said infection is viral or bacterial.

60. (Original) The process of claim 59, wherein said viral infection comprises HBV, HCV or HIV.

61. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 58, wherein said immune dysfunction comprises diabetes type I, diabetes type II, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, arteriosclerosis and ulcerative colitis.

62. (Original) The process of claim 50, wherein said mammalian subject comprises a human.